

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education,
Learning and Skills

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health
Reform

Subject: Decision number - 13/00071 - Proposal to expand
Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 21 June 2013

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Tunbridge Wells Rural: Alex King MBE

Summary: Following the recommendations from Education Cabinet Committee on 27 September 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to take the decision to issue a public notice to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Primary School to 1FE for September 2014.

Recommendation(s):

That the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree to issue a public notice to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Tunbridge Wells section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 indicates a need for 10 additional primary school places in the Lamberhurst/Goudhurst planning area.
- 1.2 On 21 June 2013 Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School by 10 places taking their PAN to 30 (1FE) for the September 2014 intake and a total number of 210 places by September 2014.
 - a. The enlargement of the school requires the provision of two additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities including additional car parking on site. The cost per classroom is preliminarily estimated at £250,000, to which must be added, some necessary infrastructure improvements. A feasibility study has been completed and the design is being developed, but the total estimated cost is likely to be in the region of £703,000.

- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’.
- 3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision’ referred to additional demand for 2014 - 2016 to be met by commissioning an additional 10 places in the Lamberhurst/Goudhurst planning area.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School by 10 reception year places, taking their PAN to 30 (1 Form of Entry) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 30 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 210 pupils. A total of 16 written responses were received with 14 respondents supporting the proposal and 2 objecting to the proposal.
- 4.2 A public consultation, which took place between 3 July and 30 July 2013. Overall 400 copies of the consultation document were distributed. In response to the consultation 16 responses were received: 14 in support; 2 against.
- 4.3 A public meeting was held on 10 July 2013A.
- 4.4 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out at the start of this consultation and is available via the following link:
<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Lamberhurst/consultationHome>
The conclusion following the public consultation is that the presumptions made in the initial assessment still remain and that it is not necessary to initiate a further Equality Impact Assessment
- 4.5 Following the expiration of the public notice the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform will allocate the capital funds to enable the expansion of Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School to proceed and authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council. In addition to authorising the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Forecasts for Lamberhurst/Goudhurst planning area within Tunbridge Wells Rural indicate increasing demand for primary school places. This enlargement will add an additional 10 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities 3, 4 and 9 of 'Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2012 – 2017).

6. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): That the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree to issue a public notice to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

7. Background Documents

7.1 Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities,_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx

7.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

[https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20\(Sept-2012\).pdf](https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20(Sept-2012).pdf)

7.3 Education Cabinet Committee report– 21 June 2013 – Primary Commissioning in Tunbridge Wells District

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s40893/Item%20C1a%20Primary%20Commissioning%20Tun%20Wells.pdf>

7.4 Education Cabinet Committee report– 27 September 2013 – Decision number - 13/00070 - Proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School

7.5 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Lamberhurst/consultationHome>

8. Contact details

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